

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 16 as follows:

1 - 15. (WITHDRAWN)

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A vehicle seat assembly comprising:

a lower seat cushion defining an upper surface and a lower surface spaced from said upper surface;

a vehicle occupant sensing system having a plurality of low profile sensor assemblies, each of said low profile sensor assemblies disposed below said lower seat cushion adjacent said lower surface, said low profile sensor assemblies each including a housing having a base, an upper slide member, and at least one intermediate guide member disposed between said upper slide member and said base, said upper slide member and said at least one intermediate guide member supported for movement toward and into said base and away from said base, and are being-responsive to movement of said upper surface of said lower seat cushion toward said lower surface of said seat cushion thereby responding to the presence of an occupant in said vehicle seat; and

a sensor operatively fixed relative to at least one of said upper slide member and said base and operable to detect movement of said upper slide member toward and away from said base in response to the presence of an occupant in said vehicle seat.

17. (ORIGINAL) A vehicle seat assembly as set forth in claim 16 wherein said at least one intermediate guide member includes a lower flange and said base includes an upper flange, said upper flange on said base and said lower flange on said at least one intermediate guide member

cooperating to define the limit of movement of said at least one intermediate guide member away from said base.

18. (ORIGINAL) A vehicle seat assembly as set forth in claim 16 wherein said upper slide member includes a lower flange and said at least one intermediate guide member includes an upper flange, said upper flange of said at least one intermediate guide member and said lower flange of said upper slide member cooperating to define the limit of movement of said upper slide member away from said base.

19. (ORIGINAL) A vehicle seat assembly as set forth in claim 16 wherein said at least one intermediate guide member includes a lower flange and said base includes an outer step which is adapted to accept said lower flange of said at least one intermediate guide member when said at least one intermediate guide member moves toward said base.

20. (ORIGINAL) A vehicle seat assembly as set forth in claim 16 wherein said upper slide member includes a retainer and said base includes a receptacle adapted to accept said retainer of said upper slide member when said upper slide member moves toward said base.